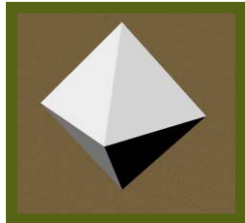


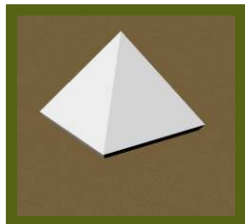
FACETS OF JEWELS BY DESIGN

Celebrating our 20th year of fine jewellery design

a periodic newsletter for clients of Llyn L. Strelau JEWELS BY DESIGN Ltd.



Octahedron Crystal



Point Cut Diamond



Table Cut Diamond

Diamond! Saying the word alone evokes the power, passion, romance and history of this incomparable gem. The path that took Diamonds from an impossible-to-work crystal to today's Ideal Cut is the story of our Antique Diamonds.

Diamonds were found first c.400 BC in India, which remained the only significant source until the 18th century. Of the variety of Diamond crystal forms, Indian elite especially revered the rare colorless perfect octahedron (eight-sided) crystals. Since it was believed these stones retained their magical and religious power only when left in a natural state, very few Diamonds were cut or polished in India then.

Italy is credited with unlocking the secret of Diamond cutting in the 14th century. Using Diamond powder (only Diamond will cut Diamond) early cutters first polished the natural planes of the octahedron creating the Point Cut. Subsequently, the addition of a single facet to the top of an octahedron led to the Table Cut.

The Renaissance, with its fascination for physical science and geometry, prompted gem cutters to enhance these simple Diamond cuts and increase *brilliance* (the measure of how much of the light entering a Diamond is then reflected and refracted through the stone and returned to dazzle your eye).

Refinements of the earlier Point Cut common in the 16th-17th centuries include the Rose Cut and the Briolette. Rose Cuts



Briolette

have a flat bottom and a dome-shaped crown covered with triangular facets. The Briolette is multi-faceted Diamond bead like a drop-shape chandelier crystal. Both the Rose Cut and the Briolette show a high degree of *dispersion* or *fire*. Dispersion is the prism effect that produces tiny flashes of rainbow colours playing across the Diamond.



Three small Rose Cut Diamonds

ANTIQUE DIAMONDS

DIAMOND LORE April is the month that claims Diamond for its birth stone. It purports to bring luck, health, financial success as well as cures for insanity, plague, pestilence, poisons and impotence. As proof, Indians claim that the plague first afflicted the poor, who had no Diamonds. As well as being the hardest gem, it sparkles in all colours to suit everyone.

EVENT CALENDAR

APRIL

Antique Diamonds and Period Jewellery
With Michael Goldstein

Seminar: Thursday April 29, 7:00 pm

Limited Seating - RSVP 228-0644

Appointments: Friday, April 30 10:30 - 5:30

Call to arrange an individual meeting with Michael

MAY

We welcome one of our top Pearl suppliers from the USA who specializes in luscious South Sea Pearls in every shade. In addition they have recently added an exciting collection of Columbian Emeralds and natural colour fancy yellow Diamonds. We invite you to call us to arrange an appointment to view his collection.

JUNE

This month our focus is on COLOUR. Our special guest is the second generation in one of Canada's premier coloured gemstone suppliers. He will be showing a wide variety of beautiful coloured gemstones: fine Ruby and Emeralds, a rainbow of Sapphires, Garnets and Tourmalines and even a selection of collector's gemstones.

The discovery of rich Diamond mines in Brazil in 1725, and later in South Africa in 1866, increased availability. An emerging wealthy middle class provided an ever-increasing demand. The art of cutting advanced with the abundant supply and stimulated new cuts. More numerous facets were added to the basic Table Cut that produced increased brilliance in the Diamond. This was in response to a better understanding of the importance of the reflective angles of the facets on the *pavilion* (underside) of the gem.



Old European Diamond in ornate solitaire ring mount



Antique Cushion Diamond in modern ring setting flanked by Baguettes

Old Mine and Antique Cushion Cuts are somewhat irregular-shaped precursors of today's Brilliant Cut. They have a squarish outline which reflects the shape of the original rough crystal, rounded corners and a very deep pavilion. They are usually identified by the large size of the *culet* (facet on the very bottom tip of the Diamond). This open culet is visible as a dark circle in the stone when viewed from the top.

As technology improved, the Old European Cut became popular. It is an early Brilliant Cut that is closer to a perfect circle. The culet is decreased in size and the arrangement of facets is more symmetrical resulting in yet higher brilliance.

In the early 1900's Marcel Tolkowsky developed a scientific formula for best brilliance and dispersion, which came to be called the Ideal Cut. This is the change point of the modern age and is still the de facto standard used by most of today's Diamond cutters with only slight variations as they strive for the elusive grail of the perfect cut.

For many years antique Diamonds were routinely sacrificed and re-cut to 'modern' proportions. Recently there has been a pendulum swing back to interest in antique Diamonds. While few Diamonds earlier than 18th century are available, gems from the 19th and early 20th century are sought by discerning collectors. So great is this fascination that some current Diamond cutters are re-creating Rose Cuts, Briolettes and Antique Cushions, which are being used by contemporary designers around the world.



19 century brooch set with larger Old European Cut and small Old Mine Cut Diamonds

Our website: www.jewelsbydesign.com is frequently updated for your enjoyment and shopping convenience. Current and back issues of this newsletter **FACETS** are on our website. Please send us your email address. We will direct publications to you via the Internet or send you a reminder to check the website.



FROM OUR HOUSE

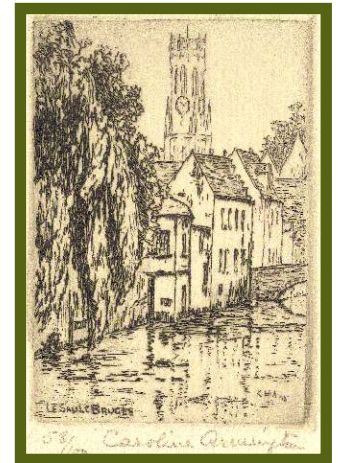
Caroline Armington (1875 - 1939)

In keeping with our April theme we are pleased to present an exhibition and sale of charming etchings by this fine Canadian artist who flourished during the same period as some of the diamonds that we are discussing. These tiny jewel-like works complement the mood of the period perfectly. Perhaps Caroline enjoyed wearing her own Old European Cut Diamonds!

Armington began her formal training in Paris at the *Académie Julian* where she would meet and marry fellow student, Frank Milton Armington (1876-1940). She is known for her paintings, etchings and watercolors depicting the streets of Paris, quaint canals of *Bruges-La-Morte* and landscapes, which were all painted *plein-air*. Armington developed a very original style from her travels and studies in Europe. She produced numerous etchings of scenes in and around France, Europe and North America using a more traditional style than in her paintings.

The artist exhibited several times in London and was invited to the Paris Salon of 1911, 1912 and later at the 1935 *Salon d'Automne*. Armington was a member of American Federation of Arts, *Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts* and the *Société de la Gravure Originale en Noir*.

Le Saule, Bruges 58/100
1910 Etching 7 x 4.8 cm



APRIL meet Michael Goldstein

We are honoured to be hosting Michael Goldstein, an enthusiastic specialist in antique jewelry, to our anniversary event presentation for April.

Mr. Goldstein has been in the jewelry industry for over 20 years in the New York City. He publishes a price guide to antique-cut diamonds and market updates for this specialized area of the diamond market. He also travels extensively to buy his inventory, and is an active and aggressive buyer of diamonds and antique and estate jewelry. Mr. Goldstein is a frequent lecturer to jewelers, appraisers, and dealers on antique-cut diamonds. He always welcomes inquiries on the pricing of diamonds and jewelry, and is happy to assist the Trade with information on this specialized marketplace.

We are privileged that Michael is willing to share his expertise with our client-based audience. He will share with us how the times are reflected in the design of the jewellery and how the setting and the cutting style complement each other. This is an opportunity that shouldn't be missed. Come to our evening seminar on Thursday April 29 or make a personal appointment during the day on Friday, April 30.